

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /103 W

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R 131342Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8431

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1454

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, MA

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REFS: (A) STATE 220772, (B) STATE 220773, (C) TANANARIVE 1417

1. CHARGE AND EMBOFF CALLED ON HENRI RAZAFINDRATOVO, MFA DIRECTOR OF MULTILATERAL RELATIONS, ON SEPTEMBER 10, TO DISCUSS REFS A AND B. EMBOFFS PROVIDED AIDE MEMOIRE ON SUBJECTS CONTAINED REF A AND COPIES OF AIDE MEMOIRES ON DOREA, MIDDLE EAST, AND PUERTO RICO WHICH CHARGE HAD GIVEN TO FOREIGN MINISTER (REF C). RAZAFINDRATOVO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SUMMATION OF US POSITION. SUBJECTS OF PUERTO RICO AND KOREA WERE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH, AND ALTHOUGH RAZAFINDRATOVO WAS GENERALLY NON-COMMITTAL ON ALL SUBJECTS, HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF CONSIDERABLE PROPAGANDA DISSEMINATED BY PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDISTAS AT COLOMBO, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE TO JUDGE WHICH SIDE IS CORRECT IN PUERTO RICAN AFFAIR. (SEE SEPTEL FOR RAZAFINDRATOVO'S COMMENTS ON COLOMBO.)

2. COMMENT: RAZAFINDRATOVO, WHO WILL MOST LIKELY ATTEND UNGA ALONG WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, DID NOT TAKE ANY LINE WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED TO BE AGAINST US

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INTERESTS, BUT, AS HE HIMSELF COMMENTED, "I AM ONLY A CIVIL

SERVANT." HE SEEMED TO HAVE ACCEPTED LEGITIMACY OF US CASE RE KOREA; NONETHELESS, MADAGASCAR' VOTING PATTERN IN UNGA WILL UNQUESTIONABLY SUPPORT NORTH KOREA. OVER THE PAST TEN MONTHS I HAVE HAD FREQUENT MEETINGS WITH RAZAFINDRATOVO (WHO STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH) AND HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND GENERALLY OBJECTIVE RE HIS OWN PERSONAL VIEWS. DESPITE HIS RATHER SENIOR POSITION IN THE MINISTRY, HOWEVER, HE HAS LITTLE INFLUENCE ON FOREIGN POLICY FORMULATION, AND GDRM POSITIONS AT UNGA WILL BE DICTATED BY RATSIKAKA'S NOTIONS OF CONFORMING WITH OTHER "PROGRESSIST" COUNTRIES.
SHEINBAUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TANANA01454
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760345-0139
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760965/aaaacdqk.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 220772, 76 STATE 220773, 76 TANANARIVE 1417
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by woolfihd>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MA, US, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006